

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review of the above-identified patent application and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's remarks noting that claims 5 and 6 are allowable and that claims 1-4 and 7-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In particular, the terms "tip" in claim 9 and "rasps" in claim 10. With this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 9 and 10 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is now moot.

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the transverse cross-sectional area" recited in independent claim 1. With this amendment, Applicant has deleted this limitation. Accordingly,

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Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome. Applicant also notes that allowed independent 5 does not recite this limitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 2 and 7, the limitation "said outer bar" lacks antecedent basis. With this amendment, Applicant has amended these claims to change the limitation to "said outer jaw". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have been overcome and should be removed.

Regarding claims 20 and 21, Applicant has canceled these claims without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this rejection is now moot.

Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,854,293 to Riblet in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,737,363 to Horst. With this amendment, Applicant has canceled these claims without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to

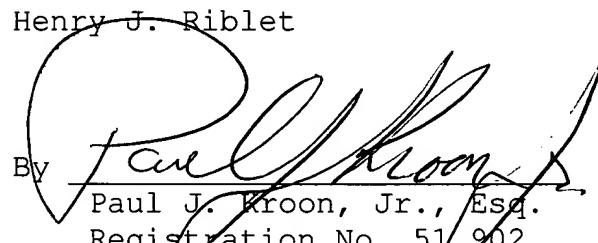
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telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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